



BURLINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Community Information Release – Property Crime – “If you like it – lock it!” May 14, 2014

Seasonally, as better weather (which we have been waiting for for a long time) embraces Vermont, property crime spikes in all of our communities. You can do things to avoid being a victim of property crime.

This week the Burlington Police Department received several reports of burglaries and break-ins to cars. Burglaries and larcenies in Burlington are usually crimes of opportunity. MOST burglaries occur at unlocked residences. Most car breaks-ins are unlocked vehicles OR those in which valuables can easily be seen through the windows.

We would like to remind residents it is imperative that we are all proactive in preventing crime. We cannot stress enough how important it is for citizens to observe the following safety tips (and many more available at our website – see below):

- Lock your doors (day or night) and windows, even when you are home or if you leave just for a few minutes.
- Make sure your windows and screens are secure.
- Use lighting inside and out so your home appears occupied.
- Close your curtains so your possessions won't be easily visible.
- Keep your purse, wallet, electronics and other valuables out of sight, or – even better – locked somewhere safely when not in use.
- Get to know your neighbors so you are familiar with who is suppose to be in your area. Let a trusted person know when you will be away so unusual activity is noted and reported (please call the police immediately when such activity occurs).
- Lock your car.
- Remove valuables from your car (best practice) or keep them out of sight. CDs, money, tools, bags and small electronics can be very tempting.
- Record serial numbers, make/model of all electronic devices etc.

Please take a few minutes to protect yourself and your possessions.

Respect ~ Honor ~ Remember

Officer James W. McGrath, end of watch May 12, 1904; Officer J. Albert Fisher, end of watch December 15, 1947

Call the Burlington Police if you are the victim of property crime or see any suspicious activity occurring in your neighborhood (658-2704 ext. 0). This will assist police with tracking patterns that may help identify suspects and solve crime. Victims of crime can also call the Parallel Justice Program to see what kind of resources and support they can provide to you (540-2394).

For more crime prevention material, please visit our website at <http://www.bpdvt.org> and visit the Safety & Crime Prevention Resources section.

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